

February 2002

Attendees and Area Announcements listed after minutes.

BioTerrorism Conference

Seven of the DEHS Director's were on the call from Nashville where they had just completed the IHS Bioterrorism Conference. Craig provided an overview of the conference. Multiple agencies presented at the conference, EHSC is preparing a CD of presentations. An ad hoc committee was formed from conference participants to propose action for the agency.

Institutional EH Topics

WebCident Update

Darren Buchanan and Richard Turner made a presentation of the program at a DHHS Safety Representative's meeting in January. The Department is interested in adopting WebCident as a recommended standard for the Department.

Richard Turner and John Smart will present a demonstration version of WebCident at the IEH meeting later in the month.

IEH Meeting

The annual Institutional Workshop will be held in San Diego February 18-22, 2002. The draft agenda is out.

Injury Prevention Topics

No topics presented.

General Environmental Health Topics

COSTEP Update

Alan Dellapenna presented an update of COSTEP activities:

- There are currently 24 names in the database from 14 schools.

School	No. Applicants
Western Carolina	4
Eastern Kentucky	4
East Tennessee	3
U. Wisc., Eau Claire	2
Salisbury State	2
Indiana State	2
U. Wash	1
U. Georgia	1
Cal State Northridge	1
Ohio University	1
Old Dominion	1
Puerto Rico (IH grad)	1
Illinois State	1

- A file review was done on all applicants this week, the database is being updated and will be distributed this week.
- Alan will be verifying COSTEP needs over the next week to determine the final number needed.
- We need more applicants. Alan will be sending an e-mail to the accredited EH programs notifying them of the need for applicants.
- You are encouraged to make contact with a program you have worked with to let them know of

the opportunity; applicants should apply online at <http://www.usphs.gov/html/application.html>. Applications for this summer should go in ASAP but can be processed as late as mid-April.

- There are not many IP requests, let Alan know if your Area has IP COSTEP requests.
- If you have contacted a COSTEP from the database and would like them for this summer, let Alan know.
- Once Alan and the Area verify the selection, the Area should initiate the Statement of Duties and 1662.
- HQE will reimburse Area's \$8000 per COSTEP.

GIS Project in WebEHRS/COSTEP Projects

Darren has added longitude and latitude coordinates in WebEHRS. HQE is working to standardize procedures and equipment needed to add GPS coordinates into WebEHRS. We will be able to have data inputted this summer. Areas may want to consider using COSTEP's to collect coordinates this summer.

Darren is looking for DEHS staff to collaborate with as he develops the GPS/GIS components for WebEHRS. If anyone is working on a GPS project, have them contact Darren.

Orientation Course/EHSC Update

The class went very well last week. Several DEHS staff made presentations at the course. Copies of several of the PowerPoint presentations made by DHES staff at the course are posted on www.dehs.ihs.gov under **Documents**.

Workshop Representation

HQE-DEHS representation at this year's workshops was discussed. Navajo, Tucson, Phoenix, Albuquerque, and Nashville don't have HQE-DEHS identified for their workshops. We are getting scheduled up for the spring, let us know if you would like representation so we can schedule.

Head Start Proposal

Ralph and Bob were in this week. We worked on the annual proposal for funding from Head Start. We are requesting an increase to fund two Injury Prevention initiatives and a GIS initiative. The proposal will be shared with DEHS Director's when it is prepared. If the increased funding is not approved, we may consider funding the projects by reducing the amount to Area's.

DEHS Dir. Meeting Update

Thank you to Bruce for preparing notes, Alan has not finalized and distributed the notes yet. Mike Welch will distribute the Facility Code Definition comments and distribute next week, we will discuss on the next call.

EIS Update

Darren found a "bug" in the program. He has sent two e-mails to Area EIS coordinators about the problem and been in contact with the EIS contractor. He expects to be able to send the "fix" out next week.

Vacancy Table Info

Remember to update your vacancies and see vacancy postings at www.dehs.ihs.gov under **Vacancies**.

Next Call

March 14, 2002, conference call numbers are the same for each call:

Dial In Number: **1-888-323-7711** (for all calls)

* Pass Code: **90841** (for all calls)

Participants and Area Announcements

Aberdeen: Dave Compton

Albuquerque: Fan Robinson. The injury surveillance software is being field tested this week.

Anchorage: Tom Coolidge, Jeff Smith. Ryan Hill was selected for the IP position in Anchorage.

Bemidji: Bruce Etchison

Billings: John Sery

California: Paul Young

Nashville: Craig Shepherd

Navajo: Chuck Freeman. Ken Secord starts as DEHS Director Feb 11.

Oklahoma: Not on the call.

Phoenix: Mike Welch. Myrna Buckles was selected for the Western Az District IP position, Gordon Tsadoke was selected for the Eastern Az District IP position.

Portland: Not on the call.

Tucson: Quanah Nail

Environmental Health Support Center: Not on the call.

Rockville: Alan Dellapenna, Kelly Taylor, Darren Buchanan